

Tenant Houses
Cottage Row
Schenectady
Schenectady County
New York

HABS No. NY-3283

HABS
NY,
47-Sche,
27-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

TENANT HOUSES

HABS

N.Y.

47-SCH 6

27-

Address: Cottage Row, Schenectady, Schenectady County, New York.

Present Owner: W. Lawrence Lugen and Kytain Lugen. Kytain Lugen of #6 Cottage Row, Schenectady, New York.

Present Occupant: Various tenants.

Present Use: Apartment houses.

Brief Statement of Significance: A mid-19th century building of interest as an architectural type.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Original and subsequent owners: Acquired by present owners in 1929. Thought to have been owned by the New York Central Railroad for a time.

B. Date of Erection: Apparently mid-19th century.

C. Original Plans, Construction, etc.: Apparently the original, typical dwelling unit consisted of a high basement and a main floor, each having two, large rooms, a smaller room and a hall.

D. Notes on Alterations and Additions: Top story added perhaps c. 1900.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character. A type of building hitherto neglected by architectural historians.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: Row of seven units about 180' long, about 25' deep. Two stories and high basement.

2. Foundations: High; field stone below ground, brick above.

3. Wall construction: Frame; main floor clapboarded, upper floor covered with novelty siding. Partitions between units are of brick, end walls are of brick, covered with wooden siding.

4. Porches, stoops: Long straight flights of covered wooden exterior stairs lead to the upper story entrances on the east and west sides; they are not original, perhaps dating to c. 1900. Similar small

ones lead to the first story entrances; they appear to be replacements. It is probable that there were no such entrance stairs on the west side, originally.

5. Chimneys: One chimney is located centrally in each of the seven units.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Main entrances are at first floor level, on the east side, one at each unit. Typically, pilasters frame a recessed opening, with a narrow three-piece entablature between the door and the transom light; there are side lights. Moldings follow Greek Revival forms. A simple doorway at basement floor level forms the original rear entrance for each unit, on the west side.

b. Windows and shutters: Main floor windows contain six over six light, double-hung sash, a number having two over two light replacements. Shutter pintles remain. Upper floor sash are one light over one light. All window trim is simple.

7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The original roof was probably pitched; the present one is flat.

b. Cornice: Simple wooden cornice.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans of each unit: Main story: A side hall and principal room occupy the front half; a larger and a smaller room occupy the rear half, the larger room being contiguous with the hall and half of the front room. Basement story: Similar to main story. Upper story, which was added later: Five small rooms per unit.

2. Stairways: Partial remains of stairs between the basement floor and the main floor hall.

3. Flooring: 3-1/4" wide pine boards.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, painted. Ceiling height of main story is 8'-6".

5. Doorways and doors: Four-panel and six-panel doors.

6. Heating: A fireplace in the main room of each original unit; probably a stove for heating and cooking also used the chimney.

Mantels have wooden antae with three-piece entablature.

D. Site

1. Orientation: Main front is to the east, with a small front and back yard.

2. Enclosures: There are fences between the units on the east, and a fence around the west yard, at present, but there is no indication of what may or may not have been the original enclosures.

3. Outbuildings. There are various sheds along the west fence, but they appear to be of much later date than the row houses.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
September 1962.